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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,832	10/17/2003	Chad Allan McGregor	53720-0008	2393

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EXAMINER

AILES, BENJAMIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/688,832

Applicant(s)

MCGREGOR ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin A. Ailes

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is, closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application:
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/17/03, 11/03/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 remain pending.

Drawings

2. Figure 7 is objected to because the drawing is too dark and it is unclear as to what the drawing is supposed to be. The requirement for a replacement drawing will not be held in abeyance.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

Replacement Drawing Sheets

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement sheets which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments section, or remarks, section of the amendment paper. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). A replacement sheet must include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and within the top margin.

Annotated Drawing Sheets

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheet(s) must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheet" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings.

Timing of Corrections

Art Unit: 2142

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- page 7, line 9, "FIG. 3" should be "FIG. 2"
- page 7, line 12, "FIG. 3" should be "FIG. 2"
- page 7, line 22, "FIG. 3" should be "FIG. 2"

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Berg et al, (US 5,999,911), hereinafter referred to as Berg.

6. Regarding claim 1, Berg discloses a method for defining a workflow process, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) collecting a plurality of data (col. 9, lines 18-24)

(b) defining at least one data record based on said plurality of data (col. 9, lines 18-24);

(c) allocating said at least one defined data record to at least one data file (col. 10, lines 3-6); and

(d) organizing said at least one data file into at least one form (col. 10, lines 6-10).

7. Regarding claim 2, Berg discloses the method further comprising saving at least one data record at a master center (col. 8, lines 49-64, Berg discloses the method of storing information in a workflow manager.).

8. Claims 5, 7, and 11 contain similar subject matter and are rejected under the same rationale as claim 2.

9. Regarding claim 3, Berg discloses the method further comprising saving said at least one data record at said master center as an XML representation (col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 2, Berg discloses the use of a metalanguage. XML is an example of a metalanguage.).

10. Claim 6 contains similar subject matter and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 3.

11. Regarding claim 4, Berg discloses the method of defining at least one data record based on said plurality of data further including controlling how said plurality of data is input using user interface data selection techniques (col. 8, line 65 - col. 9, line 2).

12. Regarding claim 8, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of

saving said at least one form as at least one action object icon (col. 9, lines 7-11).

13. Regarding claim 9, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of outputting a representation of said at least one form (col. 4, lines 28-33).

14. Regarding claim 10, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of formatting said at least one form into a format defined by a group consisting of:

(a) an end user (col. 2, line 64 - col. 3, line 9); and

(b) a system analyst (col. 2, line 64 - col. 3, line 9).

15. Regarding claim 12, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of developing a user interface to be used in connection with said workflow process (col. 8, line 65 - col. 9, line 2).

16. Regarding claim 13, Berg discloses the method of developing said user interface to be used in connection with said workflow process including developing a web-based user interface (col. 4, lines 31-33).

17. Regarding claim 14, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of programming said web-based user interface in a programming language that is different from a programming language used to program said at least one data record, said at least one data files, and said master center (col. 4, lines 40-48).

18. Regarding claim 15, Berg discloses a method for creating a workflow process, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) accessing a business logic editor located on a master center (col. 8, line 65 - col. 9, line 2);

(b) presenting at least two action object icons on a user interface (col. 9, lines 8-

Art Unit: 2142

16);

(c) accessing a canvas screen (Fig. 4 and col. 9, lines 6-7);

(d) selecting a first of said at least two action object icons (col. 9, lines 18-27);

(e) defining properties for said first of at least two action object icons (col. 9, lines 18-27);

(f) moving a second of said at least two action object icons to said canvas screen (col. 9, lines 18-27);

(g) defining properties for said second of at least two action object icons (col. 9, lines 18-27);

(h) linking said at least two action object icons to create a workflow process (col. 9, lines 18-27); and

(i) defining form processing actions by setting action object icon properties for said at least two action object icons (col. 9, lines 18-27);

19. Regarding claim 16, Berg discloses the method wherein said business logic editor is a think client application (See Figure 2, Berg discloses a user accessing the Manager over a network connection).

20. Regarding claim 17, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of accessing said master center using a web based user interface (See Figure 2, Berg discloses a user accessing the Manager over a network connection).

21. Regarding claim 18, Berg discloses the method further comprising adjusting said workflow process to create and display at least one page boundary, said at least one page boundary including at least one horizontal page or at least one vertical page (see

Figure 4).

22. Regarding claim 19, Berg discloses the method further comprising showing said page boundaries using at least one dotted line (see Figure 4).

23. Regarding claim 20, Berg discloses a method for executing a workflow process, said method comprising:

- (a) inputting a request to access a workflow process to a master center (col. 4, lines 28-30);

- (b) accessing said requested workflow process containing at least two action object icons (col. 9, lines 18-27);

- (c) executing a first action object icon of said workflow process (col. 9, lines 18-27);

- (d) saving said executed first action object icon on said master center (col. 9, lines 18-27);

- (e) determining a second action object icon of said workflow process (col. 9, lines 18-27);

- (f) executing a second action object icon of said workflow process (col. 9, lines 18-27);

- (g) saving said executed second action object icon on said master center (col. 9, lines 18-27); and

- (h) continuing to execute said action object icons of said workflow process until said workflow process is complete (col. 9, lines 18-27).

24. Regarding claim 21, Berg discloses the method of executing at least two action

Art Unit: 2142

object icons of said workflow process further including accessing said at least two action object icons to review at least one form (col. 9, lines 18-27).

25. Regarding claim 22, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of inputting data on said at least one form (col. 9, lines 18-27).

26. Regarding claim 23, Berg discloses the method further comprising the step of accessing said master center over a network using an end user (Fig. 2 and col. 2, line 64 - col. 3, line 9).

27. Regarding claim 24, Berg discloses the method wherein said end user is:

(a) a client computer (Fig. 2 and col. 2, line 64 - col. 3, line 9);

(b) a user (Fig. 2 and col. 2, line 64 - col. 3, line 9); or

(c) said user and said client computer (Fig. 2 and col. 2, line 64 - col. 3, line 9).

28. Claim 25 contains similar subject matter and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 16.

29. Claim 26 contains similar subject matter and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

30. Claim 27 contains similar subject matter and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 15.

31. Claim 28 contains similar subject matter and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 20.

32. Regarding claim 29, Berg discloses a method for creating a workflow process, said steps comprising:

(a) receiving an HTTP request, said HTTP request being received from a network

Art Unit: 2142

(See Figure 2, Berg discloses a user accessing the Manager over a network connection);

(b) providing access to a screen and at least two action object icons (col. 9, lines 18-27); and

(c) allowing at least two of said at least two action object icons to be moved to said screen and to be linked in a workflow process (col. 9, lines 18-27).

33. Regarding claim 30, Berg discloses a system for performing a workflow process over a network, comprising:

(a) means for receiving an HTTP request from an end user (See Figure 2, Berg discloses a user accessing the Manager over a network connection);

(b) means for accessing a workflow processes based on said HTTP request from said end user (col. 9, lines 18-27).

Conclusion

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chang et al. (US 2002/0167950 A1) teaches a fast data protocol for network switching.

McAtee et al. (US 5,301,320) teaches a workflow management and control system.

Flores et al. (US 5,630,069) teaches a method and apparatus for creating workflow maps of business processes.

Art Unit: 2142

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin A. Ailes whose telephone number is (571)272-3899. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4, IFP Work Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571)272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

baa


BEATRIZ PRIETO
PRIMARY EXAMINER